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May 16, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, Maryland 20852
Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing,
and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:


I support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods.

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

I recognize the radura as information regarding a material fact of food processing. The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been irradiated.

I urge you to extend the comment period past its current end date of May 18 to allow more concerned citizens the time to write in about this issue. Also, please place the comments received on the Internet so that the public can be informed about whom is participating in this comment process.

Sincerely,



Edward Webster

98N-1038

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